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LAKE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC.

October 16, 2014

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Sir or Madam,

The Internet ranks as one of the biggest economic breakthroughs in this country in 50 years. Today, quality, high-speed Internet service is vital to all, or almost all, of the America's largest, fastest-growing and most promising industries. Lake County is no exception to this rule. Deployment of high-speed Internet access plays an important role in economic growth in our area.

For all these reasons, the Lake County Development Council (LDLC) writes to affirm our belief that AT&T's proposed merger with DIRECTV should be approved with alacrity.

Should you at the FCC approve this transaction, the two companies have pledged to the expanded deployment of high speed broadband to hundreds of thousands of locations in Ohio, including in the Lake County area. Such an upgrade would affect a range of activities within LCDC's purview: business development, job growth, attracting new investment, young workers and entrepreneurs.

MISSION

LCDC RAISES AWARENESS OF
ECONOMIC ISSUES AND INITIATES PROCESSES
TO CREATE OPPORTUNITIES
FOR LAKE COUNTY BUSINESSES

LCDC and its members constitute a significant part of what makes Lake County such a great place to live and to do business. As our website states, our mission is to raise awareness of economic issues and initiate a process to address opportunities impacting Lake County business conditions. While industrial development and expansion remain a principal interest and purpose, the LCDC has recently broadened its scope to include "enhancing the quality of life" in Lake County.

Earlier this year, a three-year study of Northeast Ohio's economic future concluded that if our area follows its current trend of virtually flat population and job growth and maintains its current approach to land use and development, we will face unprecedented challenges by 2040. These challenges involve modernizing transportation, improving industrial properties and protecting natural resources.

A substantial modernization of our area's systems of high-speed Internet access would significantly help our efforts to build a positive future. First-class, widely available Internet access would help us attract the widespread growth necessary to thrive in the 21st century economy.

The Commission might be interested to know that this summer, several area businesses facing technical and manufacturing challenges turned to local experts at NASA. Working together, the businesses and NASA engineers were able to overcome their problems. The businesses moved forward and an additional 32 jobs were created as a result.

We see expanded access to high speed internet as having the potential to create many times this level of benefit to our economy. Expanded high-speed broadband would facilitate our businesses' ability to access expertise nationwide – in fact, worldwide.

Thank you for your consideration. Again, we encourage the Commission to approve the AT&T-DirecTV merger.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David Gilmer", with a stylized, flowing script.

David Gilmer
Executive Director